

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-13 CU-02 /077 W  
-----300234Z 026746 /20

R 291400Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5642  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4187

USIA FOR IOP, IPS, IEU, IBS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UR, US  
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ATTACKS CONTINUE ON ALLEGED U.S.  
INTERFERENCE IN SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. SUMMARY. PRAVDA AND SARYA VOSTOKA BOTH HAVE STORIES  
(ON LITHUANIAN HIJACKERS AND ACTIVITIES OF AMERICAN JEWS AND  
EMBOFFS IN GEORGIA) THAT HIGHLIGHT ALLEGED USG INTERFERENCE  
IN SOVIET AFFAIRS. STORIES OBVIOUSLY WERE TIMED TO COINCIDE  
WITH SECRETARY'S VISIT. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA FOR MARCH 29 CARRIES A TASS DESPATCH ENTITLED  
"WHY ARE THE 'AIR PIRATES' FREE?" THE STORY NMTEs THAT THE  
BRAZINSKASES (FATHER AND SON) ARE NOW AT LIBERTY IN THE U.S.,  
EVEN THOUGH THEY HIJACKED AN AEROFLOT AN-24 TO TURKEY SEVEN YEARS  
AGO, KILLING A STEWARDESS AND WOUNDING OTHER CREW MEMBERS.  
STORY SAYS THAT THE CO-PILOT AND ENGINEER ON THAT FLIGHT SENT A  
LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER THROUGH THE EMBASSY MARCH 28.  
(EMBASSY HAS NOT YET RECEIVED LETTER).

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3. AS CARRIED IN PRAVDA, THE LETTER READS AS FOLLOWS:  
"THE WHOLE WORLD CONDEMNS AIR PIRACY, AND YOU CONDEMN  
IT AS WELL, BUT A VERBAL CONDEMNATION AMOUNTS TO  
LITTLE. IT IS NECESSARY TO PUNISH THE VILLAINS AND  
PIRATES. THEREFORE, WE EARNESTLY URGE YOU TO USE YOUR  
AUTHORITY AS PRESIDENT TO ARRANGE THE RETURN TO THE

USSR OF THE BRAZINSKASES, WHO MUST ANSWER UNDER SOVIET LAW. WE AWAIT YOUR DECISION AND REPLY."

4. THE PILOT IS QUOTED AS BEING "ASTONISHED" THAT THE CRIMINALS SHOULD GO FREE AND UNPUNISHED IN THE U.S., AND WONDERING HOW THE SURPRISING LENIENCY OF THE USG WITH RESPECT TO THE BRAZINSKASES ACCORDS WITH THE "ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN" NOW UNDER WAY IN THE U.S. UNDER THE SLOGAN "DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS". APPARENTLY FREEDOM AMERICAN-STYLE IS FREEDOM FOR SHAMELESS CRIMINALS, FOR MURDERERS, THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES.

5. THE TASS ENGLISH WIRE FOR MARCH 28 CARRIES A STORY THAT REPORTEDLY APPEARED IN ZARYA VOSTOKA, THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE DAILY OF THE GEORGIAN CP, FOR MARCH 28. (EMBASSY WILL NOT RECEIVE PAPER FOR SEVERAL DAYS.) ACCORDING TO THE TASS DESPATCH, ENTITLED "DIRTY ZIONIST METHODS", WESTERN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES, AND ZIONIST ORGANIZATIONS USE TOURISTS AND EXCHANGES FOR "DIRTY ANTI-SOVIET PURPOSES". THE ARTICLE MENTIONS BY NAME TWO AMERICAN TOURISTS, DISCUSSES THE ACTIVITIES OF AMERICAN EMBODIES IN GEORGIA IN MAY AND NOVEMBER 1973 (MONITORING BROADCASTS OF VOA AND RL) AS WELL AS THE ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS OF AN AMERICAN JAZZ BAND, PRESENT IN GEORGIA IN 1976 UNDER THE CULTURAL EXCHANGES AGREEMENT (DETAILS SEPTEL).

6. COMMENT: SOVIET MEDIA HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE BRAZINKAS STORY OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. THAT THE CREW MEMBERS CHOSE TO WRITE A LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND TRANSMIT CONFIDENTIAL

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IT VIA THE EMBASSY AT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT, WHILE THE SECRETARY IS IN MOSCOW, CANNOT (AS THE SOVIETS ARE FOND OF SAYING) BE ACCIDENTAL. THE SAME IS TRUE FOR THE TASS PIECE ON ALLEGED EVIL DOINGS OF AMERICANS IN GEORGIA, ALTHOUGH SUCH ARTICLES TYPICALLY APPEAR AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH TOURIST SEASON.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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